

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

May 2009 Newsletter

CARS Web Site --- <http://www.wa4usn.org>

CARS meets the second Monday of each month at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61.

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 11, 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Western Shelter Disaster Drill that was conducted in Summerville the 21st and 22nd was considered a success by the powers to be. We as Hams got to use all of our equipment that was furnished to the ARES groups. All three counties Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston ARES personnel were involved. We had the chance to evaluate the equipment by actually operating under simulated difficulties. Messages were passed to other areas of the state and the country, this was successful. The Summerville Fire Department came out in force. They were the main group involved. They had the task of setting up the shelters and having them operating, which was a large task and they did an excellent job. They were well trained in putting up the shelters. The shelters were set up with beds, air conditioners running and the main item was the coffee pot. The Hams got to operate from a container that will be used in the Earthquake drills and will also be available for other disasters that might come to the area. Surprisingly they were very comfortable for what they are intended for. I think that any Ham would enjoy having one in their backyard for a Ham shack, that is if the spouse would go along with it. We had some areas that will have to be looked at a little closer but nothing that a Ham can not overcome. The poles that we have were up to the full height and took the breezes without any problems, even the one with a vertical at the top. All of the Hams worked around the clock for the two days and never a complaint was heard. GOOD JOB BY ALL!!!

See everyone at the next meeting 11 May 09.

73, Bill, WA4WGP

ARES NET REPORT

Many thanks go to John, KC4YI for being net scheduler and net control for the ARES net for the month of April. These nets are very valuable as we seem to learn something new each time.

This is a new adventure in ham radio. Here we have a 2 meter linked system throughout the state. Should a disaster occur in any part of the state, we could link up and get help from those parts not affected. Hospital spaces could become known in a short time for those who are already in a hospital or those who require hospitalization. Aid for rescuing areas affected will be addressed quickly. We recently had a drill, the Western Shelter disaster drill, where all emergency agencies came together in an empty parking lot in Summerville to familiarize all what role each agency played. Fire Chief Melfi of Summerville invited the hams in the area to participate in this drill. The object being to see how these agencies, working together, can best serve the community in times of disaster. At this writing, the results are not in, I am sure many lessons were learned. Details will be in the next issue. Hints on checking into the ARES net: key up, wait two seconds so the links can attain a solid link, before giving your call sign. State your call sign, name and location slowly and clearly so the net controller does not have to ask you to repeat.

If you are interested in getting involved in your county's team, here is the list of those whom you should contact: Darrell, KB7QVG, Berkeley County; Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dorchester County; Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, Charleston County.

I hope you consider getting involved.

73, Susannah, KE4RVF

MINUTES of APRIL MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, April 13, 2009 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, at 7:30 PM on April 13, 2009 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 37 members and 2 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/Report: Tracy, KG4HTW, for Alene KG4NKD

In a motion by Bob Ramos, W4HGW, and second by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, the March 2009 meeting minutes were approved as published in the April 2009 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The March 2009 Treasurer's report was in the April 2009 CARS Carrier and accepted as information.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny provided the final financial report from the 2009 Hamfest: Income of \$6031.55 less Expenses of \$4543.79 for a total profit of \$1487.76. The kitchen accounted for \$518.34 of the profit and \$969.42 was from the hamfest. A Hamfest Committee meeting will be called this week to recommend a vote on Hamfest 2010.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and David, KI4FSC

Ed reminded everyone of the upcoming Museum Ships on the Air event the first week of June. There will be 2 stations in operation: Yorktown-20 meters; Clamagore-17 meters; and petitioning for time on the Ingram-40 meters. Please contact Greg Amirault, KI4TVA for more info and to sign-up.

Field Day: Doug Clark, KU4OC

No new information to report.

PIO / Races: Ken, AF4ZV

Cooper River Bridge Run – April 4th: Ken reported that it was a great race, with many first time volunteers operating along the course. Ken thanked

everyone for their role in a smooth running event. The annual volunteer appreciation dinner will be at James Island Co Park on Wed, April 15th at 6pm.

Emergency Prep: Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNC, Dorchester; Vince K4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: Bill reported on the upcoming Tri-county event to be conducted out of Summerville. The exercise is designed to test deployment of special "western tent" style shelters in coordination with hospital communications. Expect to use the new radios in the pods. Volunteers who would like to participate are asked to ensure that have their ham license info with them.

Dorchester: No new information to report. Meetings on 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78.

Berkeley: Meetings are on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00am. Bill noted that Vince, KI4AOC, contacted him to report that there will be an event planned for May 27th to involve a radiological device. The activity associated with this event is expected to run from 7am – 4pm.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce noted that the repeaters are functioning normally. Recently, Homeland Security contacted the club regarding the antenna on the Yorktown – it seems an osprey decided to build a nest nearby. Input has been received by the Dept of Natural Resources and W4CAL helped check things out, a platform may be needed to reposition the nest. Also, the statewide link system experienced some recent problems with the sub-audible tone with regard to the Wallace town site – it has been resolved. And, the autopatch is back up.

Nets: Linda NeSmith, K4MPY

Linda appealed to club members to participate in the NewComers net. A volunteer is needed to coordinate this net – which has been running since 1994.

Newsletter/Website: John WA4GPS

No new information to report.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila KT4YV

Just completed a testing session last Saturday. The next test session will be on the 2nd Saturday in June. See the CARS website for more details.

School Programs: Alene KG4NKD - DuBose Middle School Radio Club - K4DMS

No new information to report.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce presented John Meyers, WA4GPS, with a certificate of recognition in honor of John's 40 years as a member of ARRL.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Mark Caragher, KE4KMD
Erwin Heins, KM4QE

2nd Reading: M. Scott Jeter – WB4FEU
John Hethcox – KI4ZMZ

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by George Post, KI4UIW, seconded by Ken Bible, AF4ZV, both Scott Jeter and John Hethcox were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

Blue Ridge Hamfest: The Blue Ride Amateur Radio Society [W4NYK] is having their annual upstate hamfest on May 2nd. For more info go to: <http://upstatehamfest.org>.

Free Amateur Radio Class – Greg Johnson, WA7TSP, teaching a class at the American Red Cross chapter

office on 4/25 & 4/26 from 8am – 5pm. License testing to follow. For more info, email wa7tsp@arrl.net.

Volunteers Needed - Bobby McBride, W4KSD – Need volunteers to serve as operators for the POD radios for Danielle Island, Goose Creek, and Summerville.

Lowcountry Tractor Association – Wes Leitch W4RUX – April 18th – Antique show
Blue Ridge Hamfest: The Blue Ride Amateur Radio Society [W4NYK] is having their annual upstate hamfest on May 2nd. For more info go to: <http://upstatehamfest.org>.

Free Amateur Radio Class – Greg Johnson, WA7TSP, teaching a class at the American Red Cross chapter office on 4/25 & 4/26 from 8am – 5pm. License testing to follow. For more info, email wa7tsp@arrl.net.

Volunteers Needed - Bobby McBride, W4KSD – Need volunteers to serve as operators for the POD radios for Danielle Island, Goose Creek, and Summerville.

Lowcountry Tractor Association – Wes Leitch W4RUX – April 18th – Antique show

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Phillip Blaha, K4PNB.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Bible, AF4ZV, and seconded by Bobby McBride, W4KSD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey (KG4HTW).

Western Shelter Disaster Drill Photos





CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

